GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3539
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
MALNUTRITION
AKHILESH YADAV

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country incurs a financial loss of Rupees 33 thousand crore every year due to malnutrition;

(b) if so, the reasons for this malnutrition;

(c) whether the Government have taken any effective steps in this regard so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) A study conducted by the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad (1997) brought out that the annual productivity loss due to major nutritional disorders in India ranged between Rs.34,450 crores to Rs.98,180 crores during the year 1996.

(b) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem and is an outcome of inter-related set of factors such as food insecurity at the household level, poor purchasing power, poor socio-economic status of women, poor access to health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, ignorance about food, nutrition and hygiene and high rate of population growth.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government is seized of the problem and is implementing a number of nutrition related programmes through it's different sectors to control malnutrition.

(d) Some of the Direct Nutrition Interventions include the Nutrition Education Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Mid Day Meal for Primary School children, Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) including National Anaemia Control Programme and National Prophylaxis Programme against nutritional blindness due to Vitamin `A' Deficiency, National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, Targeted Public Distribution System. Additional Central Assistance for nutritional support to 0-3 years old children under Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana is also given to the State Governments. Advocacy and sensitization of policy makers and programme managers towards the strategies of the National Nutrition Policy adopted by the Government in 1993 and National Plan of Action on Nutrition (1995) is also being undertaken.

(e) Does not arise.